

REMARKS

The Office Action allowed claims 28-40. The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 8-10, 18-20, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khlat et al. (US 6,678,340 B1 “Khlat-‘340”) in view of Khlat et al. (US 2004/0071,238 A1, “Khlat-‘238”) and Yan et al. (US 2003/00148,750 A1 “Yan”). Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khlat-‘340 in view of Khlat-‘238 and Riordan et al. (US 6,240,100 B1 “Riordan”). Claims 4 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khlat-‘340 in view of Khlat-‘238 and Yan as applied to claims 1, 11, and 18 and further in view of Brown (US 2004/0146,120 A1). Claims 5-6 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khlat-‘340 in view of Khlat-‘238, Yan, and Brown as applied to claims 4 and 18 and further in view of Stenstrom et al. (US 6,711,393 B1). Claims 7 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khlat-‘340 in view of Khlat-‘238, Yan, and Brown as applied to claims 1 and 18 and further in view of Riordan. Claims 14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khlat-‘340 in view of Khlat-‘238, and Riordan as applied to claim 11 and further in view of Brown. Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khlat-‘340 in view of Khlat-‘238, Riordan, Brown as applied to claim 14, and further in view of Stenstrom. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In order to expedite prosecution of this application claims 1-27 are cancelled herein without prejudice. New claims 41-48 are added. New claims 41-44 depend either directly or indirectly from allowed claim 28. New claims 45-48 depend either directly or indirectly from allowed claim 38. No new claim fees are due. All claims are now allowable and a notice of

allowability is courteously solicited. Please direct any questions or comments to the undersigned attorney at the address indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 24, 2007

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